

Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary

Tuesday, October 29th, 2013, 12:00pm ~ 1:00pm
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Attendance:

In Person: Mark Paschke, Jayne Jonas, Randy Mandel, Casey Cisneros, Cini Brown, Alicia Smith, Andrea Borkenhagen.

Phoneland: Akasha Faist, Patricia McIlvenna, Tim Hoelzle, Brock Bowles, Brett Wolk, Denise Arthur, Casey Cisneros, Ray Sperger, Ann Frazier.

President's Report:

We successfully co-hosted a pub talk on “Fire, Floods, and Low Impact Living” on September 28th in Fort Collins. Our originally scheduled High Park Fire Tour had to be canceled due to the September flooding and road destruction, so we partnered with the Northern Colorado Renewable Energy Society to bring our two groups together and talk fire and floods and eco homes. This was our first event in many years, and it was a huge success! Central Rockies brought together 3 expert panelists on forestry, water, and restoration to answer questions, and a good time was had by all. Event organization was handled by the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network.

SER 2013 World Conference in Madison was a blast!

Central Rockies chapter had an impressive showing at the SER 2013 World Conference. We had a chapter meeting in Madison with over 30 people mingling and enjoying good beverages, food, and restoration talk. It's exciting to see so many new members joining and bringing their enthusiasm to the group. Despite a late afternoon timeslot, the CeRSER organized session was very well attended and featured some great talks and intriguing discussions. Our 5 student scholarship recipients presented interesting restoration studies, thanks again to the chapter members and our scholarship sponsors Engineers Without Borders Ecuador Group and Great Ecology. We were the only SER chapter to sponsor students to attend the conference, way to go Central Rockies SER!



Central Rockies SER student scholarship recipient
Mollie Herget at the 2013 SER World Conference.

Treasurer Report

Our current balance is \$12,994, with some recent expenditures on t-shirts and income from 3rd quarter chapter dues coming soon. We have all sizes in stock of men's and women's shirt sizes, and even some color choices too. Contact treasurer Tim Hoelzle THoelzle@greatecology.com if you're interested in a stylish Central Rockies SER shirt for yourself or your company, they can be picked up in Denver, Fort Collins, or shipped to you.

Tim also expressed interest in having the fundraising committee work more closely with the events committee to coordinate and reduce the workload for putting on events. The more people to divvy up responsibilities, the more we will get accomplished!

Meeting summary from our August Central Rockies chapter meeting was officially approved!



Central Rockies SER student scholarship recipient Stephanie Barr at the 2013 SER World Conference.

Secretary Report

Membership is still climbing, with 73 active paying members. More brand new members joined in the past month, Yeah growth! If you would like to get more involved in the chapter, we make things happen via volunteer member committee's. Opportunities are available to join the events, fundraising, 2014 conference, and elections committee's. Time commitment is whatever you can give, every little bit helps!

Brett is going to work on setting up a chapter listserv in the near future, the mass emails to BCC are cumbersome and not conducive to communication amongst the group. Hopefully we can find something better.

Webmaster Report

The website is a well greased machine and Jayne has been staying on top of posting events and chapter news. If you have an event or something you think is worth posting on our website, send it to Jayne Jayne.Jonas-Bratten@colostate.edu

Events Committee Updates

More fun stuff is on the way! While the High Park Tour had to be postponed, the Fire, Floods, and Low Impact Living event turned out great. The events committee has a conference call with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers to discuss how our two groups can collaborate and work together more closely. More pub talks are planned, including a talk on water and erosion following disturbance and an event for the Boulder area on fire, bark beetles, and disturbance ecology. The High Park Fire field tour that was washed out by the great floods will be rescheduled for Spring 2014.

Our fearless leader Mark reiterated the importance of the events committee and the ever-present need for more enthusiasm in the group. If you would like to join and help make our chapter fun and active, contact the chapter secretary Brett Wolk brett.wolk@colostate.edu

Elections

The chapter has 4 elected positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. As currently written, the bylaws are conflicting, indicating that we should have elections for half of the board in alternate years to insure that half of the board stays in place and we have some continuity to keep the good mojo flowing. The group decided that in 2014 vice president Randy Mandel would become chapter president, Mark Paschke would step down as president, and an election will be held for vice president/president elect. Brett and Tim will continue as secretary and treasurer respectively until 2015, when new elections will be held for those positions.

An elections committee will be drafted at our next chapter meeting to decide on the election process and conduct the election for vice president in 2014.

Scientific Meeting on the horizon?

It's about time, don't you think? We've got fantastic momentum and enthusiasm in the chapter again, and one of our core missions as stated in the bylaws is to put on a scientific meeting. At the chapter meeting there was great support for holding a meeting in the fall of 2014. A key element to the meeting is likely partnering with one or several other organizations to both reduce the workload on our members and increase the interest and potential of the conference to draw more participants from diverse areas. Many, many, possible partners were discussed, from national organizations like the Ecological Society of America, to local groups such as the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center, several wetland societies, and the Colorado Weed Management Association.

The general consensus was that holding a conference in Fort Collins would be the easiest to organize and attract the most attendance, but several venues and cities will be considered. Given that the last scientific meeting the Central Rockies put on greatly stretched the capacity of the members and burned everyone out, easy logistics and partnering to spread the workload makes sense this time around. Many other SER chapters regularly hold conferences, and we will make an effort to reach out to them and see what they have learned from putting on past meetings.

It was decided that we would form a stand alone conference committee to start looking into logistics of holding a meeting in 2014. The committee will be charged with logistics of partnering with other organizations, sponsorship and fundraising, planning the creating the meeting agenda, and everything else needed to pull off the event. Several members jumped at the chance to join the 2014 Conference Committee, and initial membership includes Mark Paschke, Randy Mandel, Brock Bowles, Andrea Borkenhagen, Akasha Faist, Denise Arthur, and possibly Chuck Casper. More members will be needed and are welcome, contact Mark Paschke mark.paschke@colostate.edu if you are interested in joining!

New CSU course in Wetland Restoration

Andrea Borkenhagen, a Central Rockies member and CSU graduate student, will be co-teaching a wetlands restoration class at CSU this spring. The class will have students create wetland restoration plans for real world projects and feature many guest speakers from the wetland community. The class is in need of more experts to speak with the students, if you would like to participate as a guest speaker on any aspect of wetland restoration, from invasive species to hydrology to wetland construction, contact Andrea Andrea.Borkenhagen@colostate.edu

Next Meeting

The next chapter meeting will be in late November or early December, likely noontime again. Exact time and location TBA.